



香港中文大學  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Centre for Financial Regulation and Economic Development

金融規管與經濟發展研究中心



FACULTY OF LAW

## A CFRED Discussion Forum:

# GST REVISITED: WHY THE WORLD LIKES IT AND SHOULD HONG KONG HAVE IT?

led by

**Ms Christine Peacock**

*RMIT University*

**17 January 2013, Thursday**

**12:30 -2:00p.m.**

**CR5, The CUHK Graduate Law Centre, 2/F Bank of America Tower, 12 Harcourt Rd, Central**

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The use of GST/VAT as a general consumption tax has spread rapidly in recent years. Now more than 150 countries have a GST/VAT, and it affects more than four billion people. Despite the consultation by the Hong Kong government in 2006, and the recent VAT pilot project in selected regions in Mainland China, Hong Kong does not have a GST/VAT. However people living in Hong Kong may encounter the effect of the GST/VAT systems in other jurisdictions when they travel to or do business with these jurisdictions. It is important for residents of Hong Kong to appreciate how the GST/VAT operates, what effects it has and why it is widely adopted. The purpose of this seminar will be to discuss the operation of GST/VAT systems, the international trend of countries adopting a GST/VAT, certain issues that arise when a GST/VAT system is used, the setting of GST/VAT rates, and trade issues that people in Hong Kong may experience when doing business with a person or business in a jurisdiction with a GST/VAT. There will also be discussion of the potential effects of the GST/VAT on the domestic economy of Hong Kong, and on individual welfare.

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### *About the Speaker:*



**Christine Peacock** is a lecturer at the Graduate School of Business and Law, RMIT University, Melbourne Australia. She has extensive expertise and experience in the area of GST/VAT, particularly issues to do with its design and reform. Christine has presented on these issues in Australia as well as other countries, and has had many articles published. She is the author of the GST chapter of one of the main tax textbooks used in Australia, and is the General Editor of the Australian GST Journal. Christine is also often interviewed by the media, and is a member of CPA Australia's GST sub-committee. One of the highlights of Christine's career was organising the only conference which looked at the ten years of GST that Australia has had. The conference was titled "GST in Australia: Looking forward from the first decade", and the conference proceedings were published as a book.

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